

**METHODS OF CONTROLLING AXONAL GROWTH AND REGENERATION*****Abstract***

Agents which modulate a *bcl* family member to control axonal growth and regeneration are described. These *bcl* modulating agents promote axonal growth and regeneration in the neural cells of a subject. Compositions for promoting axonal cell growth in a subject also are described. The compositions of the present invention include an effective amount of an agent which modulates a *bcl* family member and in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Other described aspects include packaged drugs for treating a state characterized by diminished potential for axonal growth. The packaged compounds and agents also include instructions for using the agent to promote axonal growth in a subject.